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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

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COUNTRY Malaya/Thailand

DATE DISTR. 13 JAN 50

SUBJECT Situation of Malays in Southern Thailand

NO. OF PAGES 2

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ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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ORIGIN OF SOURCE

COLLECTOR'S PRELIMINARY GRADING OF CONTENT



1. The alleged attempts of Thai authorities in Bangkok to abolish discrimination against the Malays of southern Thailand have met with little success. Although the population of the area is predominantly Malay, there are only a few Malays employed by the government, and only one Malay in the four southern provinces has reached officer rank in the police force.
2. Educational facilities for Malays in the four southern provinces are virtually non-existent. Though in general they are not well off economically, food is not a problem. However, in order to acquire sufficient money for the purchase of other necessities, the Malays smuggle rice across the border into Malaya *.
3. Malays in southern Thailand are sufficiently discontented to join an insurrection if adequate leaders were available to organize and lead them. It appears, however, that none of the leaders are in sympathy with revolt.
4. Six news reporters from Malaya who visited Thailand in October 1949 obtained a false impression of the situation in the southern provinces because their entire trip and all their interviews were planned by and under the supervision of the Thai authorities. One or more of the newsmen did succeed in attending an unauthorized meeting of alleged leaders, who informed them falsely that a large-scale insurrection was being planned. Not one of these men was a true leader of the Malays in southern Thailand.
5. Because of rumors reaching Kelantan that attempts are being made to arouse the Moslems in southern Thailand, an investigation by Nik Kamil, the Mentri Besar of Kelantan, is being conducted to determine whether or not this agitation is Communist-inspired. It is believed that any Communist-inspired agitation in southern Thailand would be directed from Bangkok and not from the Malayan Communist Party.

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- * [REDACTED] Comment. Malays are undoubtedly taking advantage of the Thai law which allows each individual to carry thirty kilos of rice across the border. Malaya Nankai, Singapore Tamil publication, stated on 4 October 1949 that Thai naval authorities have reported that between 14,000 and 18,000 tons of rice are smuggled from Thailand to Malaya by sea each month and from 7,000 to 12,000 tons are smuggled overland.

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